(d) Under the PFA Act 1954, States are empowered to frame their own Rules for formulating licencing provisions, in consultation with Central Committee for Food Standards.

Dropsy deaths in the country

689. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the toll of life claimed by the dreaded epidemic dropsy arising from consumption of adulterated edible oil — mustard, this year, and the number of cases of dropsy reported in the country, especially Delhi and Surrounding areas, this year, the comparative figures, if any, for the past three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Central and the State Governments concerned to contain and curb the spread of the disease and to treat the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) A total of 2992 persons were affected by dropsy due to adulteration of mustard oil and other edible fats this year of these, 67 persons died. The State-wise information is in the enclosed Statement-I. (*See* below). There was no dropsy cases reported during the last three years in Delhi and surrounding areas.

(b) Measures both short term and long term taken to contain dropsy and for treatment of victims include (1) immediate ban on the sale of loose mustard oil as well as those brands of edible fats which were found to be adulterated. (2) enhancement in sampling and quality control by optimising the existing regulatory machinery in States. (3) close coordination between Central & State Govts., to ensure proper testing for argemone oil, for proper clinical management of cases to dropsy in states and Central Govt. Hospitals in Delhi and for ensuring availability at fair prices of quality edible oils. (4) stepping up of meausres to educate the public and traders about the adverse effects of adulteration and measures to contain it and facilities available for testing edible oil. (5) constitution of special medical boards in all central Govt. hospitals in Delhi to examine and treat every reported case of dropsy. (6) Notification of an Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order 1998 under the Essential Commodities Act on 17.9.98 which allows edible oils including edible mustard oil to be sold only in packed from 15.12.98 and which calls for packers to register themselves with a registering authority, provided they have their own analytical facilities or adequate arrangements for testing samples of edible oils, to be satisfaction of Govt. (7) Legal action initiated by registering cases of adulteration under the PFA Act and the relevant sections of the IPC.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of State	*Dropsy Cases* Commulative No. of Dropsy cases reported since 5.8.98 from Central/State Govt. Hospitals till date	Deaths
1.	Assam	88	
2.	Delhi	2556	66
3.	Gujarat	41	
4.	Haryana	18	
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	08	
6.	Meghalaya	3	
7.	Mizoram	1	
8.	Punjab	02	
9.	Rajasthan	40	
10.	Sikkim	01	
11.	Uttar Pradesh	234	1
		2992	67

Hospital Ill-equipped to handle burns patients

690. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hospitals run by the Central Government or State Government in the Capital are ill-equipped to handle burns patients;

(b) if so, the number of burn patients admitted in various hospitals in the Capital during the last one year and provided adequate treatment;

(c) whether some hospitals refused to admit burn patients; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to make all the hospitals in the Capital well-equipped with to handle burn patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) The Central Government hospitals namely, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital are adequately equipped to manage burn patients. However, there is no burns unit in LHMC/AIIMS. LNJP & GTB Hospitals under the control of Govt. of NCT have Burn Wards.

(b) The number of burn patients admitted is as follows:

	Period	Number of Patients
Dr. RML Hospital:	July, 1997 to June, 1998	258
S.J. Hospital:	1997	3125
LNJP Hospital		1436
GTB Hospital		

(c) and (d) No burn patient was refused admission in the burn ward of S.J. hospital/ Dr. RML Hospital. Govt. of NCT of Delhi have informed that all Burn patients are being admitted as per the availability of beds. The AIIMS does not have an exclusive burns unit which can cater to a large number of patients. All such patients reporting to AIIMS casualty are referred to Safdarjung hospital after being given first-aid and after stabilization. The Government of Delhi proposes to open thirty bedded ward and ten bedded ward for plastic surgery in Deen Dayal Upadhya Hospital.

CTA payment to Chowkidars in CGHS

691. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that chowkidars working in CGHS, South Zone, New Delhi have not been getting OTA payment since January, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) by when Government propose to make OTA payment to chowkidars from January, 1996, till date, with details of names of chowkidars and the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to non-availability of funds, O.T.A. could not be paid to chowkidars.

(c) As soon as funds becomes available, payment of O.T.A. to the chowdikars will be made. The names of chowkidars and the amount due to them are given in the statement attached.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Chowkidar	Amount (Approx.) (Rs.)
1.	Shri Gyasi Ram	23,800/-
2.	Shri Khushi Ram	23,800/-
3.	Shri Sonuvalia	23,800/-
4.	Shri Padminder	23,800/-
5.	Shri Om Prakash-II	23,800/-
6.	Shri Khemchand	23,800/-
7.	Shri Bhim Singh	23,800/-
8.	Shri Dhan Bahadur	23,800/-
9.	Shri Keswan Nair	23,800/-
10.	Shri Gorakh Prasad	23,800/-
11.	Shri Ved Ram	23,800/-
12.	Shri Madan Pal	23,800/-
13.	Shri D.N. Manghi	23,800/-
14.	Shri Tun Tun Majhi	23,800/-
15.	Shri Pratap Singh Rawat	23,800/-
16.	Shri Bhanwar Lal	23,800/-
17.	Shri Gulam Mehto	23,800/-
18.	Shri Dudh Nath Manjhi	23,800/-
19.	Shri Harbans Singh	23,800/-
20.	Shri Amarjeet Singh	23,800/-
21.	Shri Shankar Shah	23,800/-
22.	Shri Ant Ram	23,800/-
23.	Shri Baidhya Nath Mehto	23,800/-
24.	Shri Krishna Prasad	23,800/-
25.	Shri Suresh Mehto	23,800/-
26.	Shri Kailash Chand	23,800/-
27.	Shri Madan Singh	23,800/-
28.	Shri Laxman Singh	23,800/-
29.	Shri Surender Kumar	23,800/-
30.	Shri Anil Kumar	23,800/-